

# *BLM-Eastern States*

## ANNUAL REPORT

### FISCAL YEAR 2004



*Guardians of the Past—Stewards for the Future*



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**Main cover photo:** Shoreline at Douglas Point, Maryland.  
**Inset photo, lower right:** Barred owl in the forest of Douglas Point, Maryland.

**Prepared by:**

BLM-Eastern States External Affairs Office  
*Thanks to all BLM-Eastern States employees who  
made this publication possible.*

**Production services provided by:**

BLM National Science and Technology Center  
Branch of Publishing Services

**Copies available from:**

BLM-Eastern States  
External Affairs (ES-912)  
7450 Boston Boulevard  
Springfield, Virginia 22153  
703-440-1713  
**[www.es.blm.gov](http://www.es.blm.gov)**

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BLM/ES/GI-05/001+1120

# Welcome to BLM-Eastern States

*BLM-Eastern States*



BLM-Eastern States has completed another productive and noteworthy year. In fiscal year 2004, we faced new challenges and met many goals, both short- and long-term, in managing our Nation's rich resources. I am proud of our accomplishments, made possible through the

hard work of our BLM-Eastern States' employees and our partners and volunteers.

This year, we worked toward our goals with greater communication, consultation, and cooperation with citizens, interest groups, and Federal, tribal, and local representatives, while at the same time cultivating sustainable partnerships and building a strong core of volunteers.

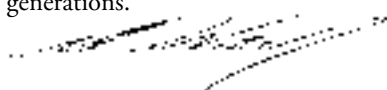
Several of our partners and volunteers received the BLM Director's prestigious Four Cs Award this year. In May, BLM's Director Kathleen Clarke recognized the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Charles County, Nanjemoy Vision Committee, and BLM-Eastern States Lower Potomac Field Station Planning Team for their cooperative efforts on the Lower Potomac River Coordinated Management Plan. This plan, the first of its kind in BLM history, is a fully integrated plan for State and Federal lands in Maryland. In June, representatives working on the Michigan Lighthouse Project received the Director's Four Cs Award for the ongoing collaborative efforts of six Federal and State agencies, nonprofit organizations, and congressional and State legislative representatives who overcame barriers to facilitate the timely transfer of historic lighthouse properties in Michigan. Several other partners of BLM-Eastern States also received the Director's Four Cs Award, including the Eastern Lands and Resources Council and Friends of Meadowood; volunteers from the Raps Road Association and Elbow Lake Association at Lake Vermilion, Minnesota; and

Diane Delano, BLM's distinguished 2004 "Making a Difference" National Volunteer from Mims, Florida.

On June 18, BLM-Eastern States held the first offsite competitive oil and gas lease sale since 1997. This sale was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, in response to oil and gas industry requests. Revenue generated from the sale amounted to more than \$1.4 million for 101 of 116 parcels of Federal leases offered for sale from the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and West Virginia. Each State will receive 25-50 percent of the total bonus bid, rental and royalty revenue, quarterly from each lease issued in that State. A bid of \$111,360 for 1,740 acres for a parcel in Scott County, Arkansas, was the highest bid of the auction.

BLM-Eastern States helped kick off the Department of the Interior's Lewis and Clark Bicentennial commemoration, a cooperative effort that began in fiscal year 2003 in Monticello, Virginia. Through environmental education and outreach, we provided tens of thousands of people in the East the opportunity to learn about the expedition of Lewis and Clark during their exploration of the Louisiana Purchase and about BLM's programs and mission. This year, signature events were held in Louisville, Kentucky; Wood River, Illinois; St. Louis, Kansas City, and St. Charles, Missouri; and Omaha, Nebraska. Other events featuring the expedition were held at the Western Governor's Reception in Washington, DC; the Outdoor Writer's Association of America Conference in Spokane, Washington; the Mall in Washington, DC; and the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum in Virginia.

As Guardians of the Past—Stewards for the Future, in fiscal year 2005, we will continue striving to enhance the quality of life for the people we serve, thus sustaining the health, diversity, and productivity of the eastern public lands and resources for present and future generations.



Michael D. Nedd, BLM-Eastern States Director





# BLM-Eastern States Executive Leadership Team

**State Director:** Michael Nedd

**Associate State Director:** Ann Aldrich

**Jackson, Mississippi, Field Manager:** Bruce Dawson

**Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Field Manager:** Aaron Horton

**Lower Potomac Field Station Manager:** Gary Cooper

**Chief, External Affairs:** Terry Lewis

**Deputy State Director for Natural Resources:** Steve Gobat

**Acting Deputy State Director for Business Resources:** Ruth Welch

**Deputy State Director for Land Resources:** Theresa Coleman



# History, Mission, and Vision

In 1946, the Grazing Service merged with the General Land Office (GLO) to form the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The BLM was charged with managing the Nation's Public Domain—the lands held in Federal ownership for the benefit of the American people. Eastern States Land Office (ESLO) carried on the GLO business of providing cadastral survey records and land title information from BLM's headquarters office in Washington, DC. By 1954, the BLM had taken on Federal onshore minerals responsibilities, resulting in greater activity in the Eastern States. More and more natural-resource-related challenges emerged in the East, and soon the ESLO began to operate in the same manner as BLM offices in the Western States, where most of the public land

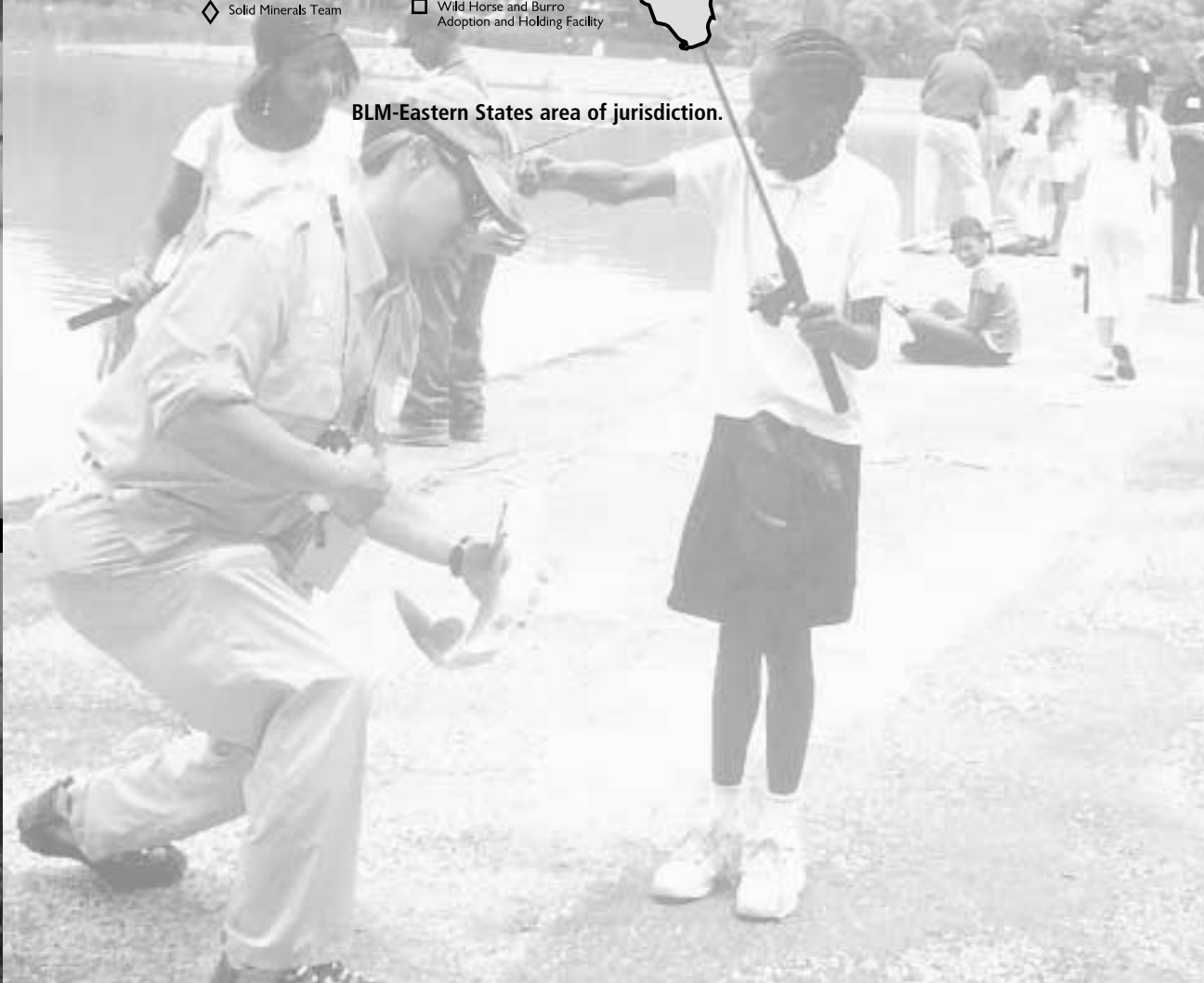
is located. The ESLO officially became BLM-Eastern States on April 8, 1980. Since then, we have played a central role in fostering the management and conservation of public lands and resources spanning the 31 States east of and bordering on the Mississippi River for present and future generations. This area encompasses 30,000 surface acres of public lands and about 40 million acres of subsurface Federal mineral estate. The surface acreage we manage for the American public is important for recreation and wise resource use, especially because of its location in the highly populated East. We continually seek input from the public and forge new partnerships to ensure that these lands and resources are managed effectively.



BLM-Eastern States



**BLM-Eastern States area of jurisdiction.**



# Program Accomplishments

## Energy and Mineral Resources

The energy and mineral resources program is one of BLM-Eastern States' largest programs. We manage about 40 million acres of mineral estate, including substantial leasing for oil and gas, and oversee environmentally sound fluid and solid mineral development.



An electric dragline removes overburden and phosphate ore on a Federal lease in Polk County, Florida.

BLM-Eastern States' oil and gas program produces significant revenues that are shared with the States from which those revenues are generated. In 2004, we administered more than 3,545 Federal mineral leases, covering approximately 2 million acres in 14 of the 31 Eastern States. In addition we:

- Issued 291 leases for oil and gas parcels, covering over 260,000 acres in the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia.
- Received more than \$1,912,767 from oil and gas leasing.
- Approved 74 applications for drilling permits.
- Conducted 690 compliance inspections of drilling and production activities on leases in the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia and reviewed production records for over 117 million cubic feet of underreported gas sales.
- Closed 68 reservoir management drainage cases to resolve the loss of lateral oil and gas reserves to private wells.
- Approved 29 oil and gas agreements.
- Prepared 40 environmental assessments for expressions of leasing interest.
- Held five competitive oil and gas lease sales, including the first offsite sale since 1997, held in New Orleans, Louisiana.



Mobile supports are used in underground coal mines to keep the mine from collapsing.

*BLM-Eastern States*

- Partnered with the U.S. Forest Service to conduct a study of the noise impacts of a proposed Michigan gas production facility on a nearby recreation area.
- Processed 600 postlease fluid minerals actions and 1,039 fluid minerals sundry notices.
- Partnered with the U.S. Forest Service to plug and abandon two orphan wells in Ohio, with the State of Mississippi to plug seven abandoned orphan wells, and with New York's Seneca Nation of Indians to plug and abandon two leaking gas wells.

- Issued 9 prospecting permit applications for copper, gold, iron, lead, nickel, wavelite, zinc, and other associated minerals.
- Completed 41 mineral reports (prospecting permit applications, color-of-title, and minerals conveyance under section 209 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976) to support activities of other agencies (U.S. Forest Service, General Services Administration, and Bureau of Indian Affairs).
- Processed 132 postlease applications.
- Completed 262 compliance inspections.

In addition, we administered 27 mining claims in the States of Arkansas and Florida.

### Estimated Revenues from Federal Onshore Mineral Leases and Disbursements to States in Fiscal Year 2004

	Total Mineral Revenues	Mineral Revenues Distributed to States
State	Revenues (\$)	Disbursements (\$)
Alabama	45,459,144	11,364,786
Arkansas	7,510,752	1,877,688
Florida	79,244	19,811
Illinois	361,704	90,426
Indiana	188	47
Kentucky	287,016	71,754
Louisiana	125,813,148	31,453,287
Michigan	1,287,024	321,756
Minnesota	35,516	8,879
Mississippi	3,701,632	925,408
Missouri	2,260,252	565,063
North Carolina	376	94
Ohio	1,112,824	278,206
Pennsylvania	88,472	22,118
South Carolina	320	80
Tennessee	316	79
Virginia	69,140	17,285
West Virginia	838,848	209,712
<b>Total</b>	<b>188,905,916</b>	<b>47,226,479</b>

\*Based on a Minerals Management Service (MMS) press release dated October 19, 2004, concerning disbursements to States and on a previous MMS publication.

**BLM-Eastern States holds quarterly competitive oil and gas lease sales. In June 2004, over \$1,428,661 was generated at a sale held in New Orleans, Louisiana, the first offsite sale since 1997.**

BLM-Eastern States oversees leases of Federal coal in the East. This year, we administered 13 coal leases covering more than 15,000 acres in the States of Alabama, Kentucky, and West Virginia. In addition we:

- Held a coal lease sale in Alabama for 2,887 acres.
- Performed 36 compliance inspections and production verification activities.
- Processed six postlease and postlicense mineral applications.
- Continued work on competitive leasing of a low sulfur deposit of coal that will extend the life of an active coal mine in West Virginia.

In 2004, we administered 111 solid mineral leases for more than 81,479 acres in the States of Arkansas, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Virginia. We also:



# Wildland Fire

The Jackson Hotshot Crew (JHC) remains the centerpiece of the BLM-Eastern States' wildland fire program. The JHC was established in 1997 to provide an additional national fire suppression resource, as well as to help develop a more diverse workforce. The JHC is based in Jackson, Mississippi, which, because of its proximity to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, enables the JHC to recruit individuals who are interested in pursuing a career in fire management. Approximately 50 percent of the JHC hired each year are minorities (African Americans, Native Americans, and Asian Americans), both male and female. The BLM-Eastern States Jackson Field Office has been working closely with its partners on the construction of the Southern Regional Fire Training Facility in Jackson, which will also serve as the headquarters for the JHC. The facility will officially open in late 2004.

In November 2003, the JHC assisted with a small prescribed fire at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Sandhill Crane Wildlife Refuge in Gautier, Mississippi. In January 2004, the JHC provided support for a highly successful prescribed fire at Lathrop Bayou in Florida. This was the first of many prescribed fires planned for Lathrop Bayou to thin out old, decadent vegetation and improve habitat for both plants



**The Jackson Hotshot Crew works cooperatively to assist State and Federal agencies in the Eastern United States in meeting their prescribed fire needs.**



**BLM-Eastern States partnered with the Mississippi Natural Science Museum on the "Fire in the Ecosystem" exhibit, which provides information about BLM's national fire management program.**

and animals. The JHC began the fire season by assisting the U.S. Forest Service in Florida with their prescribed fire program, then spent most of the spring fighting escaped wildland fires in southern Florida, followed by fires in Arizona and other locations in the West. In September 2004, the JHC assisted with cleanup efforts following Hurricanes Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne.

The JHC has established an excellent work ethic and safety record. The JHC consistently provides "Firewise" outreach to communities near prescribed fire areas. This year, we staffed a booth at the Mississippi State Fair and provided "Firewise" information to more than 600,000 individuals from Mississippi and other parts of the Southeast.

BLM-Eastern States also participated with other agencies throughout the East to implement the new "Fire Program Analysis" (FPA) planning system required by the Office of Management and Budget and Congress. We added a State Fire Management Officer to help address BLM-Eastern States' issues using this broader, interagency approach. In 2004, the State Fire Management Plan was updated to include all Fire Policy and National Fire Plan requirements.

*BLM-Eastern States*



# Wild Horse and Burro Adoption and Compliance

BLM-Eastern States is the adoption arm of BLM's wild horse and burro program. This year, we arranged for the adoption of 2,717 animals to good homes within our 31-State area of jurisdiction, which was 40 percent of the total number of animals adopted Bureauwide. The wild horse and burro internet adoption Web site at [www.adoptahorse.blm.gov](http://www.adoptahorse.blm.gov) received over 500,000 hits, resulting in the placement of 277 animals. We also completed 1,321 compliance inspections of untitled animals, with help from more than 30 trained volunteers throughout the Southeast, and issued 2,004 titles for wild horses and burros. Law enforcement personnel conducted 54 adoption and compliance investigations.



**The U.S. Army Caisson Platoon brought their adopted BLM mustangs to the first wild horse and burro adoption held at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area in Virginia.**

In October 2003, we conducted the first wild horse and burro adoption at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), where one of the horses was adopted by the U.S. Park Police. Media coverage of the adoption was highly positive, especially by the *Washington Post*. The U.S. Army Caisson Platoon, as well as previous adopters from Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, brought



**A young rider from Pennsylvania and her adopted BLM mustang successfully completed the Benefit Pleasure Trail Ride, sponsored by the United States Trail Ride, Inc., near Middleburg, Virginia.**

their formerly wild animals to show the public. A U.S. Department of Agriculture veterinarian provided educational talks and BLM-Eastern States volunteers, local equestrian and wild horse clubs, and other organizations provided the public with opportunities to learn about this and other BLM programs.

This year, BLM-Eastern States promoted the wild horse and burro adoption program at regional and national events, such as two Mississippi 4-H horse shows, Equine Affaires in Massachusetts and Ohio, Midwest Horse Fair in Wisconsin, Breyerfest 2004 at the Kentucky Horse Park, and Horse World Expo in Maryland. We continued to foster partnerships with private groups and organizations, including the Florida Girl Scouts and the Kentucky Horse Park Mustang Troop. We also collaborated with Breyer Animal Creations to facilitate a \$2,500 donation to the National Wild Horse and Burro Foundation. Additionally, we worked with PETsMART in Jackson, Mississippi, to promote an upcoming adoption event by bringing a previously adopted wild horse into the store to meet shoppers.

BLM-Eastern States volunteer Diane Delano, from Mims, Florida, received BLM's distinguished 2004 "Making a Difference" National Volunteer Award and the Director's Four Cs Award. Delano volunteered thousands of hours



**BLM-Eastern States Outreach Specialist Patrice Junius gets ready for her Wild Horse Annie event at a local school in Mississippi.**

and traveled many miles to adoptions and other outreach events. For the past 16 years, Delano has participated in educational seminars, conducted outreach programs for local schools and youth groups, and helped host several Mustang Awareness Days, all with minimal cost to BLM-Eastern States.

Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Cavel International, Inc., of DeKalb, Illinois, BLM-Eastern States is ensuring the humane care and treatment of BLM freeze-marked animals. The MOU provides a mechanism by which Cavel International will promptly notify the BLM in the event that any BLM freeze-marked animals are delivered for processing to their facility without a certificate of title bearing a matching freeze-mark number.

## Natural Resources

BLM-Eastern States manages a variety of natural, cultural, and heritage resources on widely scattered tracts of public lands. Some of these resources are truly outstanding, and we are proud to be entrusted with the care of these “jewels.”

### *Douglas Point, Maryland*


Douglas Point, a 1,270-acre tract along the Potomac River in Charles County, Maryland, is managed cooperatively by BLM-Eastern States and the State of Maryland. The area offers a variety of public recreation opportunities such as hiking and seasonal hunting. This area also has many cultural and natural resources, from sunken World War I era ships to fossils from the Paleocene epoch about 58 million years ago. Wildlife is abundant and includes bald eagles, ospreys, a variety of nesting waterfowl, deer, raccoons, muskrats, beavers, and foxes.

This year, we initiated a resource management project to identify cultural sites at the Chiles Homesite. We also participated in the annual Potomac River cleanup, in partnership with Maryland's Department of Natural Resources and Charles County.

In April, we completed the *Lower Potomac River Proposed Coordinated Management Plan*. The



**BLM-Eastern States' Associate State Director, Ann Aldrich, introduces Maryland Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, Ron Franks, at a ceremony during which the BLM Director's 4Cs Award was presented for collaborative planning for State and Federal lands in Charles County, Maryland.**



Decision Record for the approved plan was signed in September 2004. This plan was prepared cooperatively with the State of Maryland to guide the use of BLM and State lands in Charles County. The plan sets goals for outdoor recreation, cultural and historic preservation and interpretation, and natural resource conservation and education that support sustainable economic development while maintaining the region's rural character. This year, the State of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources; the Charles County Board of Commissioners; Nanjemoy Vision, Inc.; and the BLM-Eastern States Lower Potomac Planning Team were presented the BLM Director's Four Cs Award for their close collaboration in developing the plan.

### *Lake Vermilion, Minnesota*

Lake Vermilion covers about 40,000 acres and is one of the largest lakes in northeastern Minnesota. The lake has hundreds of bays and inlets, with 1,200 miles of shoreline, and more than 365 islands. Of these, 70 are small, widely scattered areas of public land where visitors can enjoy picnicking, bird watching, and fishing from boats close to the island shorelines. The lake area is home to bald eagles, loons, ospreys, and a variety of other wildlife and fish, including deer, moose, mink, otter, wolves, walleye, bass, bluegill, and muskellunge.

This year, BLM-Eastern States monitored recreation use and wildlife habitat on 8 acres in the Lake Vermilion area. We again renewed an

assistance agreement with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to monitor 16 public islands, and we continue to implement an Island Stewardship Program with lake associations to monitor 10 islands. These activities help encourage ethical use of public island resources. In 2004, volunteers from the Raps Road Association and Elbow Lake Association received the BLM Director's Four Cs Award for their participation in BLM's Island Stewardship Program. These island stewards volunteer over 200 hours each year to clean up litter, maintain signs, cut up downed trees, take BLM resource specialists on site visits, and provide feedback on recreational and wildlife uses of the islands.

Additionally, BLM-Eastern States completed an archaeological inventory and condition assessment of the remaining 63 BLM islands within the Lake Vermilion Recreation Area. As a result, 24 new and significant prehistoric, historic, and Native American cultural resources on BLM-managed properties were recorded.

### *Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area, Virginia*

The Meadowood SRMA is an 800-acre area located 25 miles south of Washington, DC, in suburban Virginia. In June 2004, BLM-Eastern States completed the *Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area Integrated Activity Management Plan/Environmental Assessment*. We also opened the Mustang, Chicken Coop, and Thompson Creek Trails, which allowed visitors to experience a variety of natural resource settings and view rare wildlife, including a population of bald eagles that BLM-Eastern States monitors in the SRMA. BLM-Eastern States manages wildlife habitat, as well as a special recreation permit for private horse boarding at Meadowood. Visitors to the Meadowood SRMA included members of the Eastern Lands and Resources Council and Western States Land Commissioners Association, who toured the area at the conclusion of their spring conference in Washington, DC.



Island Steward Curt Yahnke volunteers his motorboat and time to assist BLM with island monitoring on Lake Vermilion in Minnesota.





**Gary Cooper (center), Lower Potomac Field Station Manager, worked closely with the American Quarter Horse Association to host the 2004 Congressional Trail Ride at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area in Virginia.**

This year, BLM-Eastern States conducted archaeological and historical site surveys on 400 acres in the Meadowood SRMA. We also initiated a challenge cost-share partnership with the Fairfax County Archaeology Program. Using professional staff and community volunteers, the County will conduct comprehensive surveys for prehistoric and historic resources throughout the Meadowood SRMA. The surveys will assist BLM in planning for future uses on the property, including public interpretation of cultural resources.

Partnerships are integral to the management of the Meadowood SRMA. This year, BLM-Eastern States entered into an agreement with the Gunston Station of the Fairfax County Fire Department to provide both structural and wildland fire protection to the SRMA. We also initiated two resource management projects with Cooperative Environmental Studies Units (CESU) partners, which included a breeding bird survey on 300 acres and natural resource surveys for rare plant and arthropod species at the Meadowood SRMA. In addition, we partnered with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation for habitat improvements and special status species inventory and the Student Conservation Association for weeds education at the Meadowood SRMA.


## *Lathrop Bayou, Florida*

BLM-Eastern States began implementing the Habitat Management Plan for Lathrop Bayou in 2004. In January, BLM and its partners, St. Joe Timberland Company, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Genecov Group, with assistance from the Florida Department of Forestry, conducted the first prescribed fire at Lathrop Bayou in 60 years. Decades of accumulated duff and woody shrubs were burned to benefit fire-dependent habitats and special status species, including BLM's only cluster of endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers and three endangered plant species.

This area is dominated by 100-year-old longleaf pines, which provide cavities for the woodpeckers. Preparations for the fire included several days of hand-clearing 40-foot-diameter buffers around 22 cavity trees to protect their roots and trunks, which were laden with flammable sap. In late January, conditions prescribed for the fire were met, with saturated soils that protected surface roots and steady cool winds following a cold



**Annual monitoring of red-cockaded woodpecker cavities at Lathrop Bayou, Florida, requires climbing trees to carefully extract hatchlings for banding and weighing.**



front. The resulting 2-day burn met our objective of reducing the fuel load without damaging woodpecker cavity trees.

By April, the red-cockaded woodpeckers were nesting and subsequently raised chicks that averaged 14 percent heavier than last year. Chapman's crownbeard, a plant on Florida's endangered species list, flowered in the thousands along the monitoring transects. White birds-in-a-nest and Florida skullcap, which are on the Federal endangered species list, bloomed outside of our scheduled monitoring, most likely prompted by the burn. Florida skullcap, in particular, was seen blooming in substantial numbers across the center of the island. The monitoring protocol is currently being adjusted to target these species, which have blooms that vary in response to moisture and fire regimes.

### *Jupiter Inlet Natural Area, Florida*

A collaborative exotic plant species removal project in the Jupiter Lighthouse area was a high priority for BLM-Eastern States in fiscal year 2004. The \$56,000 project was cofunded by a Palm Beach County grant that was specifically designated to remove exotics from public lands near natural areas. In high profile areas

like the Jupiter Lighthouse, the removal of these nuisance plants not only benefits native plant and animal species, but also contributes to the County's efforts to educate the public on the deleterious effects these plants have on Florida's ecosystems. The project was complicated by the anticipated presence of thousands of Native American and historic artifacts near the surface in the area of this 150-year-old lighthouse. Bob Carr, a noted South Florida archaeologist with the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, provided the monitoring for this public service project.

BLM-Eastern States also conducted its annual 2-week sweep for exotic species in the Jupiter Inlet Natural Area in July 2004. This year, the sweep was extended to include a 5-acre "doughnut hole" maintained as an active communication site by the U.S. Coast Guard. Recent disturbances related to the removal of excess buildings and facilities opened the door for opportunistic exotics, such as natal grass. Including the area in the annual exotic removal program ensures that the area does not become a seed source for these plants and improves the habitat for native species. The U.S. Coast Guard, BLM, and Palm Beach County assist each other in maintaining the site. The U.S. Coast Guard also provided labor and facilities for the National Public Lands Day event at the site.



Students from Jupiter Environmental Research and Field Studies Academy use a custom net designed to monitor fish species entering and leaving the tidal lagoon at the Jupiter Inlet Natural Area in Florida.

# Lands and Realty

Through our lands and realty program, we provide for public land identification, disposal, and land tenure adjustments. In fiscal year 2004, BLM-Eastern States:

- Responded to over 8,500 land title, patent transfer, and land sales inquiries for the 31 Eastern States.
- Processed withdrawal actions on 660 acres in Michigan and Florida.
- Ensured patent compliance on properties in Illinois and Florida and transferred 32 acres to the State of Wisconsin in accordance with the Recreation and Public Purposes Act.
- Transferred jurisdiction of 550 acres within the Talladega National Forest.
- Completed the transfer of approximately 245 acres associated with the White Earth Reservation Land Settlement Act of 1985 on behalf of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- Transferred two islands pursuant to the Minnesota Public Lands Improvement Act.
- Completed adjudicative actions to validate or correct conveyance documents for



**BLM-Eastern States Associate State Director Ann Aldrich helped to transfer the Eagle Bluff Lighthouse and associated public land to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.**



**Department of the Interior Secretary Gale Norton and Acting Milwaukee Field Manager Aaron Horton presented the BLM Director's 4Cs Award to representatives working on the Michigan Lighthouse Project.**


approximately 800 acres in the States of Michigan, Mississippi, and Minnesota.

- Began the Alabama/Mississippi Resource Management Plan, which covers Federal lands and minerals issues.
- Completed an evaluation of the Minnesota Management Framework Plan, which determined that the plan provides a sufficient basis for all likely program actions in the State.

BLM-Eastern States continues to actively process withdrawal relinquishments for U.S. Coast Guard properties around the Great Lakes and the State of Florida. The U.S. Coast Guard has determined that the properties, which were originally set aside through Executive order for lighthouse purposes, are no longer needed. Our overall goal is to find other public entities (Federal, State, local, or nonprofit groups) that are interested in long-term management of the parcels and associated lighthouses. The properties are transferred either through the Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act or by a public land order to another Federal agency. There are 33 lighthouse properties located on Public Domain lands within BLM-Eastern States. The U.S. Coast Guard has relinquished 32 properties, composed of 35 individual parcels.

In fiscal year 2004, BLM-Eastern States celebrated the ownership transfer of two historic lighthouse properties through the R&PP Act.

*BLM-Eastern States*



In October 2003, the Eagle Bluff Lighthouse and associated 1.21 acres of public land located in Wisconsin's picturesque Door County were transferred to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. This was the first lighthouse to be transferred in Wisconsin through the R&PP Act and the fourth in the Great Lakes region. Next, at a public ceremony in June 2004, BLM-Eastern States Director Mike Nedd signed the patent transferring the historic Point Betsie Lighthouse and associated 4.05 acres of public land to Benzie County in Michigan. BLM Deputy Director Fran Cherry; representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard, Michigan Lighthouse Project, and Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse; and over 100 members of the general public attended the ceremony.

## Cadastral Survey

BLM-Eastern States continued to uphold the Secretary of the Interior's survey responsibilities



**BLM-Eastern States' land surveyor Leon Chmura and cadastral survey technician Jesse Kopach perform a survey at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area in Virginia.**

for determining the boundaries of Federal public lands within our 31-State area of jurisdiction, with emphasis on meeting our American Indian trust responsibilities and Federal obligations to tribal governments in the East. We also fulfilled Secretarial responsibilities for the care and maintenance of duplicate copies of plats and field notes for the Western States.

In 2004, we provided survey services to the U.S. Forest Service in Arkansas; National Park Service in Washington, DC; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Missouri; Department of Justice in New York; and Bureau of Indian Affairs in Maine, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Survey crews:

- Completed 408 miles of field surveys.
- Set 451 monuments.
- Approved 29 surveys amounting to 544 platted miles and 997 monuments.
- Filed 589 western cadastral survey plats and field notes.
- Continued collection of township data through the Geographic Coordinate Data Base (GCDB) in the State of Mississippi and provided GCDB quality control on township data collected in partnership with the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri and the Superior National Forest in Minnesota.



**BLM cadastral surveyors use global positioning system technology to perform official government surveys for Federal and Indian trust lands in the East.**



- Conducted Public Land Survey System history training seminars for professional surveying associations in Alabama, Louisiana, and Minnesota.

This year, we surveyed:

- 74 miles for the Passamaquoddy Tribe and Penobscot Indian Nation in Maine.
- 79 miles for the White Earth Band of Chippewa in Minnesota.
- 11 miles for the Choctaw Tribe in Mississippi.
- 98 miles for the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in Wisconsin.
- 15 miles for the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in Wisconsin.
- 15 miles for the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe in Louisiana.

## General Land Office Records

BLM-Eastern States is the custodian of more than 9 million historic land title records from



The Department of the Interior's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Patricia Morrison, and the BLM-Eastern States Director, Mike Nedd, scanned the 1 millionth General Land Office serial patent.



BLM-Eastern States representatives Tondi Ballard, Patricia Tyler, and Josie Gyurik demonstrate the General Land Office Records Web site at the National Genealogical Society Conference in Sacramento, California.

the Public Domain States dating back to 1787. This year, we scanned and indexed 136,200 serialized land patent records, of which 106,000 were made available online through the General Land Office (GLO) Web site. Currently, there are over 4.2 million land patent records available online. This includes more than 2.9 million that have been scanned and imaged since the project began in 1989. There are records from 30 Public Domain States: in the East—Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Ohio, and Wisconsin; in the West (post-1908)—Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

This year, the GLO Web site received 46 million logons by more than 24 million users. We celebrated the GLO Web site's 200 millionth hit in January and scanned the 1 millionth serialized patent in June. The GLO Web site continues to be one of the Department of the Interior's most popular Web sites. The public can access the Web site 24 hours a day, free of charge, by visiting [www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov).



Historic land title records are available through the BLM-Eastern States General Land Office Records Web site at [www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov).

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# Other Accomplishments

## Partnerships

BLM-Eastern States is committed to Secretary Gale Norton's four Cs philosophy—consultation, cooperation, and communication—all in the service of conservation. In the East, we play a critical role in helping to make BLM a truly national public land management agency by making Americans more aware of their valuable lands and natural resources. We also made great strides in outreach by forging strong partnerships and taking a proactive approach to involve States, counties, communities, and groups in public land management. Some important partnering efforts we were involved in this year included:

- Cosponsoring Pathways to Fishing, an event to teach children how to fish, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Magnolia Crappie Club at LeFleur's Bluff State Park in Mississippi.
- Working with more than 20 agencies to provide a National Fishing Day event for local school groups at Constitution Gardens in Washington, DC, as part of the annual National Boating and Fishing Week.
- Participating in Jackson State University's Science Olympiad, where junior and senior high school students from central Mississippi and the Jackson metropolitan area competed in numerous science events.
- Promoting BLM's *Project Archaeology: Intrigue of the Past* by working with the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse and Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center to create Web pages about the project and presenting 2 workshops to 35 teachers in the Jackson metropolitan/


tricity area to help them bring new ideas to their classrooms.

- Participating in the annual Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA) Conference in Spokane, Washington, to actively promote BLM programs and share information with OWAA members, who represent a powerful organization of journalists and industry public affairs professionals dedicated to the conservation of our natural resources and sound outdoor education.
- Holding four National Public Lands Day events, which involved removing invasive species, cleaning up trash and debris, landscaping and pruning, and maintaining trails at four sites under BLM-Eastern States' jurisdiction.
- Participating with many State and Federal agencies and other organizations in the National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial signature events at Louisville, Kentucky; Wood River, Illinois; St. Charles, St. Louis, and



BLM-Eastern States helped explain BLM's programs at the annual Experimental Aircraft Association AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, the largest general aviation event in the world.

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Kansas City, Missouri; and Omaha, Nebraska, by conducting educational sessions for 10,000 members of the public and accommodating 32,600 visitors at the display booths.

- Participating in the largest general aviation event in the world, the annual Experimental Aircraft Association AirVenture, held in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, by actively promoting BLM programs, increasing awareness of airspace use rules, and enhancing aviation safety for over 750,000 visitors at the Federal pavilion, which included 17 Federal agencies.

## Environmental Education and Outreach

BLM-Eastern States provides a variety of recreation, environmental educational, and outreach programs to help educate the American public and promote responsible environmental stewardship among youth. Most of these programs are implemented through partnerships. In fiscal year 2004, we:

- Hosted 13 events for over 300 students to teach them about the environment at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area.
- Participated in 16 offsite environmental education events for over 4,000 members of the public throughout the greater Washington, DC, metropolitan area.
- Participated in the 12th Environmental Education Camp, which is part of the Piney

Woods School Summer Enrichment Program.

- Partnered with the American Recreation Coalition, Toyota, and Disney during Great Outdoors Week to present environmental education activities, such as Leave No Trace and Pathways to Fishing, to 120 students from Washington, DC, public schools and BLM-Eastern States' adopted school, Miner Elementary, also in Washington, DC.
- Portrayed "Sherlock Holmes" and "Wild Horse Annie" to thousands of school-aged children throughout the State of Mississippi, giving them an opportunity to learn about rocks, minerals, and wild horses.
- Initiated a challenge cost-share project with Neighborhood House of Milwaukee to conduct an inventory of its Nature Center to better understand the landscape and to develop programs that provide youth with quality environmental education and "hands-on" recreational experiences in a rural, outdoor setting.
- Initiated a long-term partnership agreement with Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC) to provide "hands-on" Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographic Information System (GIS) training and equipment for the purpose of collecting real data for mapping trails and other environmental related components in the Wil-O-Way Woods area.
- Provided an exhibit for the Milwaukee Betty Brinn Children's Museum "Foster Families" event to promote fire prevention on Federal lands, reaching 100 attendees.
- Collaborated with Milwaukee Public Schools by sponsoring a geologist who offered "hands-on" opportunities to third graders to supplement a classroom science unit and to help them distinguish the differences between rocks, minerals, and fossils and their formations.
- Provided leadership and curation for a series of archaeological digs at Camp Arrowhead, a Boy Scout camp in Missouri, serving more than 16,000 youth and volunteers throughout 31 counties in south-central and southwest Missouri and southeast Kansas.



A class of home-schooled children from Virginia enjoy a hike on the Wood Thrush Trail at the Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area in Virginia.

The Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Rebecca Watson, presented Neal White, Coordinator for the Jupiter High School



Environmental Research and Field Studies Academy and BLM's 2003 "Making a Difference" National Volunteer Award winner, with a Take Pride in America Appreciation Certificate in recognition of the academy's more than 3,000 hours of volunteer service at the Jupiter Inlet Natural Area in Florida.

Faye Winters, a wildlife biologist from the BLM-Eastern States Jackson Field Office (JFO), received BLM's 2004 "Excellence in Interpretation or Environmental Education" Silver Award for her involvement with Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and local environmental academy students in the restoration, monitoring, and preservation of the Jupiter Inlet Natural Area in Florida. In November 2003, Patrice Junius, an outreach specialist from the JFO, received the "Excellence in Interpretation or Environmental Education" Honorable Mention Award for her innovative approaches to educating young people in Mississippi about environmental issues, such as wild horses and burros and Project Archaeology.

## *America's Outdoors*

America's Outdoors is an interagency "one stop" center for environmental education, urban conservation, and recreation information. The Center is located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Through America's Outdoors, BLM-Eastern States provided information to 865 visitors and customers; reached approximately 1,200 attendees at the City of Milwaukee's annual Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show; exhibited at the city



**Cynthia Coleman of America's Outdoors assists a customer using a kiosk to locate information about recreational opportunities throughout the United States.**

of Milwaukee's annual Sports Show, reaching 150,000 attendees; exhibited at the Milwaukee County Zoo to promote volunteer opportunities; and participated in the Environmental Awareness Fair at Milwaukee's Public Museum. We sold 51 Federal recreation passports and also provided information on recreation opportunities and facilities on public lands at the Federal recreation Web site [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov).

## *Wonderful Outdoor World*

The Wonderful Outdoor World (WOW) program encourages urban youth, ages 8-12, to participate in environmental education and traditional recreation activities such as camping, fishing, and hiking. In 2004, BLM-Eastern States partnered with WOW to hold several campouts in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area, with 30 youngsters participating at each event. We also partnered with the Alexandria Seaport Foundation to support three environmental sojourns on the Potomac River for local high school students and teachers.

## *Urban Tree House*

BLM-Eastern States is a key partner in the Urban Tree House (UTH) program in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The UTH program is a unique partnership of governmental, nonprofit, and community organizations dedicated to delivering the message of public stewardship and resource conservation to urban youth.

This year's efforts included providing environmental education programming to 1,900 young people throughout the Milwaukee metropolitan area at the Milwaukee UTH site, local youth-serving organizations, the city of Milwaukee's annual Summerfest, and Stewardship Days in Chicago, Illinois. We also coordinated with Midtown Community Neighborhood Association to participate in Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful's 4th Great American Cleanup, dedicated as a "Take Pride in America" event, reaching nearly 30 community residents. In addition, we collaborated with Greening Milwaukee, the Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Energies, and

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Midtown Community Neighborhood Association to educate residents in identifying, planting, and caring for trees in their neighborhood, which supported Governor Jim Doyle's "Year of Wisconsin Forestry" declaration.

In fiscal year 2004, BLM-Eastern States also initiated a challenge cost-share project with the Midtown Community Neighborhood Association in support of Milwaukee's UTH program. This project will provide 30 additional environmental education programs with the treehouse structure in an outdoor classroom setting. We also collaborated with Neighborhood House of Milwaukee on the development of the "Nature Time" curriculum. This curriculum, which meets State and national standards, was piloted at one public school and is currently being used in three Milwaukee public schools, UTH programming, Neighborhood House's after-school programs, and the Nature Center.

## Volunteers

In 2004, we continued our volunteer efforts through our Volunteer Web site and our *Vantage* newsletters. Volunteers offered their time, talents, and resources to BLM-Eastern States offices, resulting in 23,725 donated hours at a value of \$407,832. Diane Delano won the BLM's National Volunteer Award in 2004 and the BLM Director's Four Cs Award for her assistance to the Jackson Field Office's wild horse and burro program. Volunteers from the Raps Road Association and Elbow Lake Association received the Director's Four Cs Award for their participation in BLM-Eastern States' Island Stewardship Program.

## Congressional and State Government Outreach

BLM-Eastern States contacted 153 congressional offices to meet with staff and present information about our activities in their Districts. We continued to support and maintain an

active membership with the Eastern Lands and Resources Council (ELRC), an organization comprised of highly trained, State public land professionals. We continued our partnership with ELRC to formalize a framework of communication, cooperation, and consultation in the service of conservation for land and natural resources management. We also formalized our partnership with the State of Maryland to cooperatively manage adjacent Federal and State lands, a project for which we received the BLM Director's Four Cs award.



**The Eastern Lands and Resources Council and Western States Land Commissioners visited Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area following their spring 2004 conference in Washington DC.**

## Customer Service

In 2004, BLM-Eastern States continued to maintain effective relations with customers, stakeholders, and partners. We responded to online comments that we received and added comment cards to all pages of our BLM-Eastern States Web site at [www.es.blm.gov](http://www.es.blm.gov). We also continued to provide hard-copy comment cards for oil and gas, wild horse and burro, public room, and recreation and environmental education customers.

Currently we are taking action to address issues pertaining to wild horses and burros, stakeholders and partners, and oil and gas, based on the results of a survey we conducted in 2003. We are also currently conducting a visitors survey to improve customer service at the Meadowood SRMA.



# Financial Information

BLM-Eastern States' budget comes from funds appropriated to the Bureau by Congress. These funds are distributed to BLM-Eastern States' programs as follows:

## BLM-Eastern States' Appropriated Funding Level for Fiscal Year 2004 (Figures in thousands of dollars)

Natural Resources . . . . .	\$ 2,102
Wild Horse and Burro Adoption and Compliance . . . . .	3,840
Energy and Minerals . . . . .	6,207
Lands and Realty . . . . .	3,548
Wildland Fire . . . . .	.826
Cadastral Survey . . . . .	1,619
GLO Records Automation . . . . .	1,692
<b>Total Budget (BLM-appropriated funds) . . .</b>	<b>\$19,834</b>

Each year, BLM disburses payments in lieu of taxes to States in which there are Federal lands and resources. These payments are determined according to a formula and are appropriated by Congress.

## Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Fiscal Year 2004

State	\$ PILT	Entitlement Acres
Alabama	409,035	794,870
Arkansas	3,189,632	3,288,040
Connecticut	29,181	12,041
Delaware	10,330	7,403
District of Columbia	18,084	6,963
Florida	2,886,819	2,559,821
Georgia	1,534,672	1,289,587
Illinois	626,111	478,230
Indiana	367,383	311,321
Iowa	255,559	183,192
Kentucky	1,595,515	1,249,062
Louisiana	295,544	739,388
Maine	203,568	116,908
Maryland	85,384	43,872
Massachusetts	63,610	39,970
Michigan	2,533,298	2,155,884
Minnesota	1,628,214	2,899,901
Mississippi	558,615	1,632,158
Missouri	2,157,494	2,042,354
New Hampshire	998,447	758,506
New Jersey	77,295	40,309
New York	88,425	59,418
North Carolina	2,411,306	1,715,504
Ohio	532,703	356,022
Pennsylvania	461,048	651,999
South Carolina	249,918	774,134
Tennessee	1,390,696	1,237,165
Vermont	522,377	400,598
Virginia	2,431,553	2,052,195
West Virginia	1,689,467	1,231,236
Wisconsin	1,015,808	1,361,665
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,317,091</b>	<b>30,489,716</b>

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Bureau of Land Management  
Eastern States  
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*As Guardians of the Past and Stewards for the Future,  
BLM-Eastern States is committed to sustaining the health,  
diversity, and productivity of the public lands and resources  
spanning the 31 States east of and bordering on the Mississippi River  
for present and future generations.*

*[www.es.blm.gov](http://www.es.blm.gov)*